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# Congressional Progressive Caucus

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## **Republican Budget Priorities vs. Congressional Progressive Caucus Budget Priorities Highlights**

### **Education, Training, Employment and Social Services:**

**Republicans:** Provide \$4.7 billion less for 2001, and \$19.8 billion less over five years than the President's budget.

**CPC:** Provides \$9.13 billion more for 2001, and increases in funding for key education programs such as after-school programs and education technology.

**Republicans:** Head Start would have to cut services to more than 40,000 children

**CPC:** Offers the only budget that fully funds Head Start

### **Income Security:**

**Republicans:** The House Republican budget plan provides \$35.2 billion for discretionary programs in Function 600, \$5.7 billion below the amount need to maintain current services. By 2005, this loss in purchasing power grows to 19.1 percent.

**CPC:** The CPC budget proposal increases income security programs by \$7.4 billion and increases the levels with inflation for five years.

**Republicans:** Over 12,000 low-income children of working parents would lose their child care subsidies under the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) cuts in the Republican resolution.

**CPC:** The CPC increases the CCDBG by \$2 billion, more than double the increase requested by the President.

**Republicans:** In order to cover all Section 8 housing renewals as the Republicans claim to do, they would have to cut other programs by 4.1 percent across the board, including food stamps and other nutrition assistance.

**CPC:** The CPC increases the President's request for Section 8 housing vouchers by \$780 million, Homeless Assistance Grants by \$320 million, Senior Housing programs by \$71 million, and fully funds the Hunger Relief Act, which restores eligibility for food stamps to legal immigrants.

**Community and Regional Development:**

**Republicans:** The House Republican budget resolution funds Community and Regional Development Programs at \$9.1 billion, a \$2.6 billion (21.9 percent) cut in purchasing power. By 2005, the cuts are an unrealistic \$4 billion (32.3 percent).

**CPC:** The CPC budget includes the Rebuilding America's Infrastructure Initiative, which provides state and local governments with zero interest loans to construct and rebuild schools, bridges and roads, water treatment and sewer systems, mass transit systems, and to expand the information superhighway to underserved populations. The cost of the federal government subsidizing the interest is around \$15 billion a year.

**Veterans Benefits and Services:**

**Republicans:** While in 2001 the Republicans provide a 6.4 percent increase over the 2000 freeze level for veterans programs, from 2002-2005, the Republican plan does not keep pace with inflation. By 2005, the Republican plan represents a cut of \$657 million (2.7 percent) in purchasing power.

**CPC:** The CPC increases veterans programs by \$1.9 billion above the President's request for 2001 and allows the to keep pace with inflation over the five year budget window. This includes fully funding the veterans groups request for medical spending, and increases for medical research, long-term care, the Montgomery G.I. bill and other educational assistance, and mental health and substance abuse programs.